

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**17**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**      Agreement with Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, Iowa Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and DNR for the Habitat Check-off Program

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The Commission is requested to approve an agreement with Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, Iowa Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and DNR for the Habitat Check-off Program. This agreement is an extension of an established program that has been in effect for 6 years and has helped to facilitate a great partnership between the Iowa Native Seed Growers Association, Pheasants Forever, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The agreement is designed to be entered into between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and the Iowa Natives Seed Growers Association (INSGA). INSGA agrees to donate 10% of seed sales that are accompanied with a Habitat Check-off Certificate to an account that is split equally between IDNR and PF. The IDNR will manage the account including; providing fiscal administration to accept funds from the participating seed dealers, providing fiscal accountability, including handling request for information, auditing overview, and payment disbursement to Pheasants Forever and INSGA members to the satisfaction of all parties. Money made available from this agreement to DNR will be used solely to promote and establish better habitat utilizing native plant materials. Money may also be used to leverage grants for similar purposes. Landowners receiving seed resulting from this agreement as a cost-share will be encouraged to purchase seed from one the seed growers who is working with INSGA as a voluntary partner to this program.

The amount of the agreement is tied directly to the amount of funds that are donated to the Habitat Check-off Account which is tied directly to the number of landowners that use a Habitat Check-off Certificate when they purchase seed from one of the INSGA growers.

Over the last 6 years the majority if the funds in the Habitat Check-off Account have been used to provide cost-share to landowners to purchase native grassland plant material including seed or plugs. The funds have also been used for advertisement of the program and promoting the use of native plant materials in conservation practices. The account has also been used to leverage grant funds that provided cost-share to landowners for establishing native grassland species for the benefit of wildlife.

Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
January 8, 2009